Commission Regulation (EC) No 53/2008 of 22 January 2008 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for wines originating in the Republic of Montenegro

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in wine[(1)], and in particular Article 62 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) A Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Montenegro, of the other part[(2)] (hereinafter referred to as the Stabilisation and Association Agreement), was signed in Luxembourg on 15 October 2007. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement is in the process of ratification.

(2) On 15 October 2007 the Council concluded an Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Montenegro, of the other part[(3)] (hereinafter referred to as the Interim Agreement), which provides for the early entry into force of the trade and trade-related provisions of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

(3) The Interim Agreement and the Stabilisation and Association Agreement stipulate that wines originating in Montenegro may be imported into the Community, within the limits of Community tariff quotas, at a zero-rate customs duty.

(4) The tariff quotas provided for in the Interim Agreement and in the Stabilisation and Association Agreement are annual and are repeated for an indeterminate period. The Commission should adopt the implementing measures for the opening and the administration of the Community tariff quotas.

(5) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 of 2 July 1993 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code[(4)], has codified the management rules for tariff quotas designed to be used following the chronological order of dates of acceptance of customs declarations.

(6) Particular care should be taken to ensure that all Community importers have equal and continuous access to the tariff quotas and that the rates laid down for the quotas are applied uninterruptedly to all imports of the products in question into all Member

States until the quotas are exhausted. In order to ensure the efficiency of a common administration of those quotas, there should be no obstacle to authorising the Member States to draw from the quota volumes the necessary quantities corresponding to actual imports. Communication between the Member States and the Commission should, as far as possible, take place by electronic transmission.

(7) This Regulation should apply upon the entry into force of the Interim Agreement and should continue to apply after the date of entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

(8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for wine,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1 A quota at zero-rate customs duty is opened for wines imported into the Community and originating in the Republic of Montenegro as set out in the Annex.

2 The zero-rate duty is applied subject to the following conditions:

a the imported wines shall be accompanied by a proof of origin as provided for in Protocol 3 to the Interim Agreement and to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement;

b the imported wines shall not benefit from export subsidies.

Article 2

The tariff quotas referred to in Article 1 shall be administered by the Commission in accordance with Articles 308a to 308c of Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93.

Article 3

The Member States and the Commission shall cooperate closely to ensure compliance with this Regulation.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2008.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 22 January 2008.

For the Commission

Mariann FISCHER BOEL

Member of the Commission

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Regulation (EC) No 53/2008. (See end of Document for details)*